

# Mystery Tokens

## Part 8

by

**Ron Benice**



Here is the eighth and last group of tokens whose historical information has eluded me. Readers of Alaskan Token Collector and Polar Numismatist are challenged to come up with information about the owners or businesses that issued these tokens.

### Sitka

City Bakery: These round red cardboard tokens read: CITY BAKERY/ Good for 12½¢ LOAF BREAD. There is no city name on the token. It was attributed by a knowledgeable Alaskan with a good track record in the 1970s. Can anyone find an advertisement for this business or any newspaper reference to it issuing tokens? Unfortunately a business called city bakery could be anywhere.

Sitka Bar: Although this token doesn't say Alaska on it, there's a high probability it is really from Sitka. I never found a listing for this business, although I did find a Sitka Hotel and a Sitka Liquor Store, either of which could have housed the bar. The only example I've seen is counterstamped LJ and I found no likely suspects in Sitka with these initials.

### Skagway

La Fiesta: Says Skagway, looks very old and says Holly St., the original name for Sixth Avenue. I would like to pinpoint the dates of operation and find an owner's name.

Kentucky Liquor House: A maverick, widely accepted as being from Skagway rather than someplace in Kentucky. Can someone prove it?

McCreedy and Elliott: This is one of the most frustrating tokens with regard to finding historical details. Common. Seven denominations from 5¢ to \$10. Merchandise mentioned on the token. Specimens are found circulated. But no trace of the business. I have found an A. D. Elliot (sic) on the membership list of the Alaska Brotherhood in Sitka from 1898 to 1902.



Shooting Gallery: Another maverick. Counterstamped H. Grimm who owned saloons in Skagway. Tokens say "Caudle" which begs for an explanation. Best guess so far is that this was original owner's last name.

### Takotna

John Heino: Originally known only from dies, actual tokens have been found that do not appear to be restrikes. Mr. Heino was a builder in Fairbanks in 1932. But when was he in Takotna and what did he do there?

continued on page 3

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We start our 29th year with a new look on the front page. I thought I would try something new this year, after all, we have been using the old "masthead" since April, 1981! According to the editorial, I had 100 printed, and thought it might not last that many issues!

Our thanks to Ron Benice for his last installment of Mystery Tokens. Look at the end of the article for an important announcement.

I started cleaning some files this month, and hence some "**Colors in the Pan**". How corny is that? But there are some interesting kernels of information.

Your editor was playing with some silver, and the result can be seen on page 6.

There are some interesting items in **For the Record** and **Paper Potpourri**. And the **Military Challenge Coins** feature one of the neatest that we have seen.

In **Prices Realized**, many items went unsold or sold for their opening bid. One seller was reaching for the moon with some opening bids. Fortunately for buyers, they went unsold. Items that sell for opening bids only prove that one person is willing to pay that price, and had it started lower, it conceivably would have sold for less. For this reason, we do not believe that items selling for the opening bid are true reflections of value.

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## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , D.D. Club, 12¢, B-15aII	26.07
<b>Anchorage</b> , Joe Flowers, 5¢, B-18aII	51.00RNM
<b>Anchorage</b> , Kustatan Pkg., 25¢, B-26c	40.00OB
<b>Bering River</b> , Hoonah Pkg., 10¢, B-1b	OB90.00NB
<b>Bethel</b> , N.C. Co., 50¢, B-2b	OB95.00NB
<b>Circle</b> , Collins & Strait, 10¢, B-1a	150.00OB
<b>Circle</b> , Collins & Strait, \$1, B-1c	317.00
<b>Cordova</b> , Cordova House, 5¢, B-14a	50.00OB
<b>Cordova</b> , Rainier Grand, 12½¢, B-33c	150.00OB
<b>Cordova</b> , Roswog, 6¼¢, B-34b	45.00OB
<b>Douglas</b> , Novelty Shop, 6¼¢, B-29a	OB295.00NB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , California, 25¢, B-11a	907.00
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Fbks. Cigar Store, 5¢, B-17a	OB75.00NB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Fbks. Cigar Store, \$1, B-17b	268.03
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Masonic Penny, B-33a	125.00OB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Ryan, no denomination, B-51a	150.00OB
<b>Flat</b> , Kruhm, 50¢, B-2b	40.00OB
<b>(Flat/Iditarod)</b> , The Branch, 25¢, B-1a	250.00OB
<b>Ft. Yukon</b> , Carter, 5¢, B-3a	395.00OB
<b>Ft. Yukon</b> , Carter, 50¢, B-3c	OB250.00NB
<b>Haines</b> , Brouillette, 10¢, B-3a	OB75.00NB
<b>Haines</b> , Chisel, 5¢, B-4a	OB250.00NB
<b>Juneau</b> , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bI	40.00OB
<b>Juneau</b> , Occidental Hotel, 12½¢, B-56c	OB90.00NB
<b>Juneau</b> , Spickett & MacGregor, 6¼¢, B-67a	52.88
<b>Kaltag</b> , Muller, 25¢, B-1a	356.00
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Hotel Connel, 5¢, B-11a	OB125.00NB
<b>Kivalina</b> , Reindeer & Trd., 25¢, B-1b	103.71
<b>Koyukuk</b> , Vernetti, \$5, B-3e	OB20.00NB
<b>Koyukuk</b> , Vernetti, \$10, B-3f	OB25.00NB
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich Packing, 5¢, B-1a	OB195.00NB
<b>(Nome)</b> , One lead pencil, B-2a	OB95.00NB
<b>Nome</b> , Board of Trade, 5¢, B-8a	OB95.00NB
<b>(Nome)</b> , Breakers, 12½¢, B-9b	152.50
<b>Nome</b> , Cape Nome Pharmacy, 6¼¢, very corr.	99.00
<b>(Nome)</b> , Lomen reindeer tag	89.99
<b>Nome</b> , Mulloy, 25¢, B-33a	OB40.00NB
<b>Nothorn Comm. Co.</b> , Lower Yukon 25¢, B-4a	OB500.00NB
<b>Nulato</b> , Nulato Roadhouse, 75¢, B-3a	1,840.00
<b>Rampart</b> , Anicich, 1 drink or cigar, B-1a	805.00
<b>Skagway</b> , Anderson, 6¼¢, B-1a	42.07
<b>Skagway</b> , N.K. Wilson, 5¢ unlisted, 2nd example	260.00
<b>Snug Harbor</b> , Pioneer Canneries, \$1.25 bx, B-2a	51.10
<b>Tanana</b> , Timothy's Place, 25¢, B-10a	OB300.00NB
<b>(Thane)</b> , AK Gastineau, B-C2b	13.00
<b>(Thane)</b> , AK Gastineau, B-C2c	26.00
<b>Thane</b> , Dug's Place, 6¼¢, B-3a	OB350.00NB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block, 12½¢ TC, B-4a	51.00
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1595.00NB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cI	RLOB1595.00NB
<b>(Valdez)</b> , AK Home Railway, B-C3a	49.99OB
<b>(Dawson, YT)</b> , Kilgore & Landahl	OB195.00NB
<b>Liard Post, BC</b> , Hyland & Belfry, \$1	123.71
<b>A.Y.P.E.</b> , 1909, ¼ DWT	OB225.00NB
<b>A.Y.P.E.</b> , 1909, ¼ DWT	OB249.00NB
<b>A.Y.P.E.</b> , 1909, ½ DWT, jewelry	OB149.00NB

continued on page 6

# Mystery Tokens, cont.

## Tanana

Timothy's Place: This token looks like it may be the oldest token from this town. Can you help give Timothy a last name?



## Thane

Dug's Place: Here's another guy who needs a last name and other details.



Thane Club: This was presumably associated with the gold mine, but was it a private or corporate-owned business? And what were its exact dates of operation?

## Valdez

H. L. Huneke: This token is a maverick. Others with this last name were in Valdez before 1907. Token reportedly came out of Valdez in 1976.

## Wrangell

W & F: This token is not a maverick since it does say Wrangell on it. I couldn't find any partners matching the initials as first names or last names. Can you help?

This concludes my listing of mystery tokens. I'd like to thank those who contributed to filling in the blanks in this series which started in May, 2001.

**I have decided to produce a third edition of *Alaska Tokens*. It will be published independent of the Token and Medal Society. Target date is early 2009. TAMS will continue selling the second edition at regular price until the new edition comes out, at which time I will acquire all remaining unsold copies. I plan to expand the scope to include the early metallic tokens of the Yukon. In the meantime, watch for my book *Florida Paper Money* to be published in 2007.**

## TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOLD

Mike Locke was kind enough to provide photos of the 1 Gramo token struck at El Paramo, Tierra del Fuego by Julio Popper. This piece is extremely rare, with two or three specimens known. Unlike the Alaska Pinch and A.Y.P.E. gold tokens these were actually used as coins! Shown actual size and enlarged



# COLORS IN THE PAN

## GLEANINGS FROM NON-NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

**Alaska Journal**, Winter 1972; Judge Ballou of Rampart by William R. Hunt.

“The town was less lively in 1901 than in earlier years, but it was still the metropolis of the Yukon and offered more of the amenities of life than much of the smaller towns along the river. Three dance halls entertained the stomping miners. They bought four chips for a dollar. One of these went to the dance partner, one to the house, and the other two could be redeemed for drinks at the bar.”

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**Alaska Journal**, Summer 1978; Down Through the Years by R.N. DeArmond.

“Dyea, May 15, 1895 - Edgar Wilson, a partner in the firm of Healy and Wilson, died here today, apparently of inflammation of the lungs and overexertion. He was fifty and is survived by his wife and son. Recently Wilson had been working on a wagon road to Chilkoot Pass and had reached Stone House with the work. He established the trading post under the name of Healy and Wilson here at Dyea in 1886 and recently has been in charge of the operation since his partner, John J. Healy, went to the Yukon River to manage the North American Trading & Transportation Company.”

\*\*\*

**A History of the Russian-American Company** by P.A. Tikhmenev, translated by Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly. \* see note below, right.

“Furthermore, in order to facilitate settling accounts with hunters, the board of directors sent the colonies parchment tokens [*marki*] with the government’s permission. They were to take the place of money and were distinguished in color and shape according to their value - 1, 5, 10, or 25 paper rubles, and 10, 25, or 50 kopeks. Baranov was ordered to pay the salary of each employee in the colonies with these tokens. Goods and supplies in the company stores were to be sold in exchange for the tokens, with certain restrictions on alcoholic beverages (the sale of which was rationed) and luxury articles (which would deprive the purchaser of necessities if their value exceeded his means). On payday, when the tokens were distributed, the company stores were to return the tokens they had received during the period. Forgers of the tokens, should any such

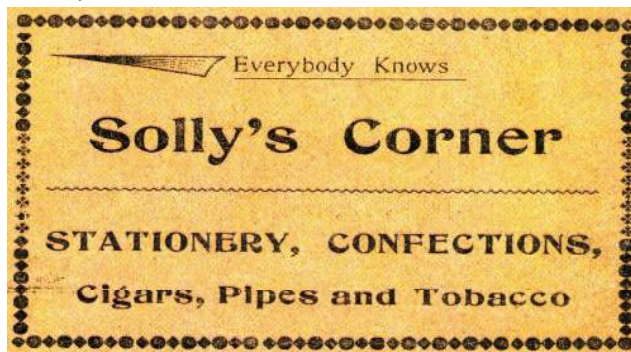
appear, were to be treated as criminal.<sup>1</sup>

“This states that in response to a proposal by Baranov, the Main Office authorized such tokens 20 June 1803, more than a decade earlier than indicated by Tikhmenev. The first issue was to comprise 10,000 rubles each in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 rubles, printed on parchment. It was felt that if coins were used, the natives would use the metal for other purposes.”

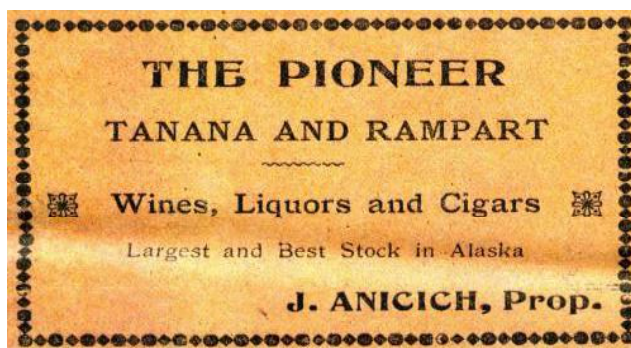
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**Fairbanks Weekly News**, September 19, 1903.

“D. Ryan, of Skagway, is in town and contemplates opening a cigar store in the near future.” (Fairbanks, B-50a)



Cleary, B-3a. Could Solly's have had a business in Fairbanks in 1903??



Rampart, B-1a. Clearly, Anicich had businesses in Tanana and Rampart in 1903.

\* Note: We have one copy of “A History of the Russian-American Company by P.A. Tikhmenev, translated by Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, University of Washington Press, 1978. Not new, but nearly so. \$50 postpaid by media rate mail, or add \$8.10 for priority mail.



# MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



**ALASKA:** Armed Services YMCA of Alaska, 29th Annual Salute to the Military. Red, white, blue, black, yellow enamel on bronze, 50mm. Eagle is partially out of the diameter of the medal (Kurtis Hawk).



**(FT. RICHARDSON):** United States Army Garrison Alaska. America's Arctic Warriors. Sustain Support Defend. Red, black, blue, white and gray on bronze, 38mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 354th Fighter Wing, Presented by the Commanding Officer. Red, white, blue, yellow and green enamel on silver colored metal, 40mm (Kurtis Hawk).



**(FT. RICHARDSON):** 1102d Garrison Support Unit, Diverse Support for Alaska. Red, white and blue on bronze, 45mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 354th Support Group, Presented by the Commander. Red, white, blue, yellow and green on silver colored metal, 40mm (Kurtis Hawk).



**FT. RICHARDSON:** U.S. Army Volunteer Corps, a tradition of service. Red, white, blue, yellow, gray, green and brown on bronze, 45mm.



**EIELSON AFB:** 2005 Air Force Ball, 26-Mile Strip, Alaska, 1947. Red, white, blue, yellow, green, orange and gray on silver colored metal (Kurtis Hawk).



**KODIAK:** U.S. Coast Guard Electronic Systems Support Unit. Red, white, blue, green, brown and yellow on bronze(?), 48mm.



## FOR SALE!!!



Jack Coghill was Lt. Governor when Wally Hickel ran and won on the Alaska Independence Party ticket. This one ounce silver medal (not marked) is an odd format, being 40.3mm. The reverse is the same as the one used on the Joe Vogler medal (Joe was the founder of the Alaska Independence Party). We rarely see these, but were fortunate to purchase a few. We offer these for \$24, postpaid.

## FAIRBANKS COIN CLUB

The Fairbanks Coin Club was started up again last year. Because your editor is (select one) a) such a nice guy b) so philanthropic c) bored, paid members for 2007 received a pure silver medal, approximately ¼ ounce, counterstamped with their membership number at no additional cost.



You too can be a member of the Fairbanks Coin Club and receive a membership card and medal. Send a check for \$25 made payable to the Fairbanks Coin Club, and \$3 cash for postage so your editor can mail your medal after your membership number has been counterstamped into the medal. Your medal will be shipped after the next meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month).

The medals are hand struck from dies that your editor spent many hours (OK, minutes) engraving. Because these are all hand struck, some imperfections exist on all medals. Soft strikes are common, because I had to hand-hold the dies, and the die bounce pinched my pinky. The medal you see above is mine, and I endured some pain to make sure it was a strong strike.

## RUSSIA POLAR EXPORATION



**RUSSIA 3 ROUBLES:** Commemorating the Great Northern Expedition, 1733 to 1743. Participants were H. & D. Laptev, Ortsin, Maligin and Chelyuskin. One ounce of silver.

## RUSSIA REGIONS COINS

Russia is issuing coins to note their regions, as the US is issuing coins for the 50 states. The five below are for Siberian regions, and are clockwise from top left: Primorsky Krai (Vladivostok), Republic of Altai, Republic of Sakha/Yakutia; common 10 Rouble reverse; Sakhalin Oblast; and Chitinskaya Oblast.

The coins are 28mm, bimetallic with a brass outer ring



and cupronickel center. Inside the zero of the "10" is a shifting image that shifts from 10 to Pyb (Rouble). The 10 can be seen in the scan.

## PRICES REALIZED, CONT.

A.Y.P.E., 1909, ½ DWT	OB425.00NB
A.Y.P.E., 1909, ½ DWT, NGC MS-62	326.00
A.Y.P.E., 1909, 1 DWT	OB249.00NB
A.Y.P.E., 1909, 1 DWT	304.00
A.Y.P.E., 1909, 3 piece set	OB999.00NB
Alaska Gold, ½ Pinch, 1899, round	360.00
Alaska Gold, 2 TooWah, looks brass	306.99

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist  
RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve  
BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

## FOR THE RECORD



**FAIRBANKS:** Farthest North Elks Lodge #1551. Probably a drink token. Brass, 34mm. We thought we had run this before, but could not find it.



**NUSHAGAK:** P.A.F., Inc. (Pacific American Fisheries). Black on yellow, 42mm pinback (Kaye Dethridge). Price Realized - \$36.00.



**“YUKON” MAVERICKS:** The Yukon Dogs, 5¢, brass, 21mm; Yukon Hotel, 5¢, brass, 24mm; Doc's The Yukon, 12½¢, aluminum, 24mm (Kaye Dethridge).



**MAVERICK:** Crow's Nest, good for one free drink. Black on yellow plastic, 28mm. Possibly from the top of an Anchorage Hotel, or Denali Park????



**RUSSIA 2 KOPEKS:** 29mm copper Russian 2 kopek coin (1818?) with counterstamp “B. Walcutt”. This piece was lot 1634 in the Schulman Coin & Mint Inc. and A. Kreisberg & J. Cohen coin auction held on June 18, 19 & 20 in 1971. Schulman attributed this coin to Sitka. (Dethridge, eBay, PR 308). Ed. Note: We can find no Walcutt in Alaska from 1890 to about 1920. Presumably, this piece would predate this.



**(ALASKA):** Five Wooden Hickel Nickels, Squeeze until a deposit is made. Black on wood. Why had we not seen this before??? See page 64, Dec. 1995 for another “Hickel Nickel!”



**JUNEAU:** Spickett & MacGregor, 6¼¢. B-67a. Listed but not illustrated.



**NULATO:** Nulato Road House, 75¢. B-3a. Listed but not illustrated. This is an interesting old token, with an odd denomination for the time period, 1911-1923. Brought an impressive \$1,840 on eBay.



# PAPER POTPOURRI



This is an interesting piece, for which I saved no data except the photos from eBay.

Issued in 1916, note that it says Days of '97, totally different from the "Days of '98" paper that we have seen.

W.P.A.C. is probably the White Pass Athletic Club.

We think we know the purchaser, so if you could provide physical data, it would be appreciated.



## ALASKA 50th ANNIVERSARY \$50 BILL!?!?!?!?

This is so bad, I am not even going to tell you who is making it or where to get it. It is enough to just know that it is out there.

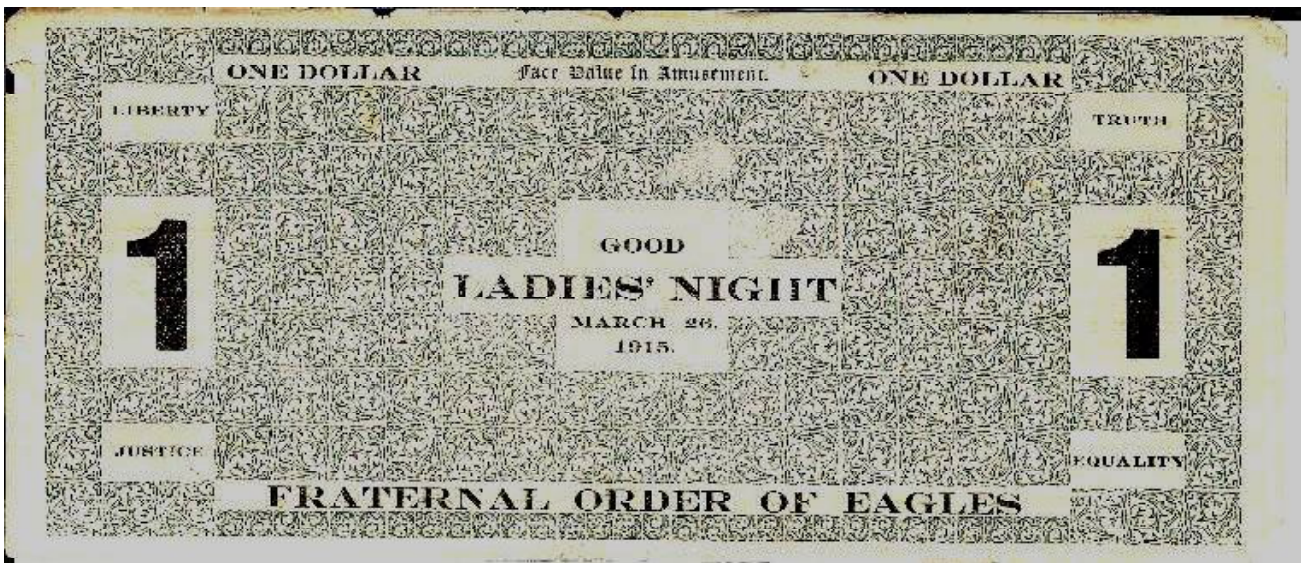
Their sales literature promotes this as an investment! They are offered for sale for \$3 in packs of 100. And, "Their appreciation is likely to climb to face value some years after the Golden Jubilee. When this does occur, the now \$300 wholesale pack of 100 Commemorative Bills will be valued at \$5000....If you keep the 100 Bill Pack intact with successive serial numbers, the value for that pack will be much greater than the sum value of the bills."

Sadly, I hate to think how many people will be sucked in by this.





## PAPER POTPOURRI, CONT.



**FAIRBANKS:** Fraternal Order of Eagles, Ladies Night, March 26, 1915. Black and green printing. Actual size 190mm x 83mm. Listed in Roubles to Statehood by Fernald and McDowell. eBay PR - \$224.72 (Kaye Dethridge).

## ONE MILLION DOLLAR BILL!!



**NORTH POLE:** Hood Agency, \$1,000,000 advertising note. Black and green on off white paper, 155 x 67mm.

